

# National Park Service Northeast Region



## Delaware Parks and Partnerships



### DELAWARE STATS

Land and Water Allocation,  
2002: \$1,329,475

Cumulative Urban Park and  
Recreation Recovery Funding:  
\$528,073

Properties on the National  
Register of Historic Places:  
698

National Historic Landmarks:  
11

### PARTNERSHIPS IN DELAWARE

The National Park Service and Delawareans are working together to conserve natural resources, create recreational opportunities and preserve Delaware's rich heritage. The National Park Service's partnership with the State of Delaware has created outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state. Together, Delaware and NPS have worked to preserve historic buildings and districts, below ground and underwater archeology, monuments, and cultural landscapes. The cornerstone of our work is a cooperative planning process that develops public and private partnerships to create recreation and preservation opportunities within an ethic of conservation. We understand how essential public involvement is to making our partnership work for Delaware and integrate it into everything we do.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION IN DELAWARE

#### WHITE CLAY CREEK – A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

One hundred and ninety miles of the White Clay Creek and its tributaries were designated part of the the National Wild & Scenic River System in 2000. As it flows through southwestern Chester County, PA and northwestern New Castle County, DE, the White Clay passes outstanding natural and cultural resources on its way. There are 19th century mills and federally listed endangered bog turtles; Delaware's most extensive remaining mature piedmont forests and the exceptional Cockeysville aquifer.



Left to right: An enjoyable spot along the White Clay Creek; Fishing in the White Clay Creek; Reseeding an area in the watershed as part of ongoing conservation efforts.

### National Park Service Programs in the Northeast Region

**Marie Rust**  
Regional Director

The White Clay Creek study was the first to encompass an entire watershed as part of the national wild & scenic designation study process. Traditionally, a narrow corridor of land surrounding a river is studied instead; this misses the variety of influences beyond the corridor that have

profound impacts on river resources. The Wild and Scenic River designation resulted from the legislatively mandated study process conducted by NPS staff in the Philadelphia office.

The White Clay Creek is a unit of the National Park System but under a very different administrative framework than the traditional National Parks owned and managed by the National Park Service. The existing institutions and authorities will play the main roles in long-term protection of the White Clay Creek watershed. Municipalities, counties, states and federal agencies, together with private landowners, will participate in maintaining the high quality of the watershed. The National Park Service will continue to participate through activities such as coordinating the management plan for the watershed that was completed in the summer of 2001.



Scenic fall view of Naamans Creek, in the Ardens

### **RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RTCA)**

Through this program, NPS staff assist community groups, nonprofits and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. Communities initiate a project and approach the Park Service for help with planning, publicizing and technical assistance to carry it out. With NPS assistance, communities are able to conserve areas close to home for recreation, exercise and the enjoyment of cultural and historic resources. With well under one percent of the National Park Service budget, RTCA helps develop over seven hundred miles of trail, protect over a thousand miles of waterways, and preserve over thirty thousand acres of open space every year.

In Delaware, RTCA was involved in an unusual way with the conservation of the cultural landscapes at the Ardens. America's oldest surviving secular utopian community, the Ardens are located within the city of

Wilmington. The Park Service worked with several partner groups, including federal, local and state governments, community groups and the University of Delaware. This partnership conducted planning for the environmental, cultural and historic preservation of the area and for sustainable community development that allows the preservation of this unique way of life.

### **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (L&WCF)**

The L&WCF, a Federal and State matching grant program, has been instrumental in establishing Delaware's state park system. Nearly every state park from Brandywine Creek to Delaware Seashore has benefited from the fund. State parks have received acquisition assistance, as well as help in facility development. As a result, most state parks are pro-

For more on the White Clay Creek, contact Chuck Barscz at:

215-597-6482

Charles\_Barscz@nps.gov

To learn more about the national program, visit

<http://www.nps.gov/rivers/>

For information on RTCA at the Ardens, contact Julie Bell at:

215-597-6473

Julie\_Bell@nps.gov

For general information on RTCA, contact Robert Potter at:

215-597-1787

Robert\_Potter@nps.gov

or visit:

[www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca](http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca)



Groups interested in community organizing can find ideas, techniques and strategies for building a project in NPS's Community Toolbox. The material is available online at:

[www.nps.gov/phso/rtcatoolbox](http://www.nps.gov/phso/rtcatoolbox)

or contact Evelyn Swimmer at:

215-597-7947

Evelyn\_Swimmer@nps.gov





Boating among the baldcypress on Trap Pond, near Laurel. Trap Pond State Park has received L&WF funding. Photo: Tom Nutter, News Journal

To learn more about L&WCF or UPARR in Delaware, contact Steve Smith at:

215-597-5199  
Stephen\_Smith@nps.gov

For the national L&WCF program, visit:

[www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/LWCF](http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/LWCF)

For UPARR programs across the nation go to:

[www.nps.gov/uparr](http://www.nps.gov/uparr)

The State Liaison Officer (SLO) represents the governor in managing the L&WCF, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and other recreation grants. Delaware's SLO is:

Charles Salkin  
Director, Div. of Parks & Recreation  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 1401  
Dover, DE 19903  
302-739-4401

For more information on the Underground Railroad in Delaware or in other northeast states, contact Tara Morrison, Program Coordinator at:

215-597-9123  
Tara\_Morrison@nps.gov

You might also want to check out the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Travel Itinerary at:

[www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel)

tected by Section 6(f) of the L&WCF law, which provides powerful federal protection to parkland. Many county and local parks have received assistance as well, giving the State of Delaware a legacy of protected parkland.

Delaware is leading the region in the planning process for the L&WCF. At a recent planning workshop on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) hosted by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, the Delaware contingent assumed a leadership role in re-invigorating the SCORP planning process. The workshop was designed for SCORP planners to discuss how the SCORP planning process can best meet the needs of each state and fulfill the requirements of the L&WCF program. Each state must have an approved 5-year SCORP document on file with the National Park Service by December 31, 2002 to maintain their eligibility for the L&WCF program.

### URBAN PARK AND RECREATION RECOVERY (UPARR) PROGRAM

This program targets the needs of urban populations in densely developed areas. Wilmington has received two grants in the past ten years -- an innovation grant in 1992 for a youth roller skating program and a rehabilitation grant in 1994 for Kirkwood and Tilton parks, which allowed the installation of new playground equipment and an exercise court. The new director for Wilmington parks has indicated there will be future applications for UPARR funds.

### PRESERVING DELAWARE'S RICH HERITAGE

#### UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Delaware, the southernmost free state on the east coast, was critical to many Underground Railroad routes for slaves from the South escaping to freedom in the North. These routes included safe 'stations' to rest and hide in along the way and involved an intricate network of men and women. In 1990, the National Park Service undertook a study on how best to interpret and commemorate the Underground Railroad through a Special Resource Study that was completed in 1995.

With the passage of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act in 1998, the National Park Service began to coordinate preservation and educational efforts nationwide. In Delaware, we are working especially closely with the Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware, an umbrella organization, to support various efforts across the state. In 2001, the Northeast Region of NPS funded the production and printing of a preliminary assessment report, "Lighting a Spark to Freedom," as technical assistance to the Coalition. The report outlines



Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House. Two Underground Railroad "Station Masters" were congregation members.

alternative approaches for interpreting and preserving Underground Railroad sites and stories. In 2002, the Coalition received a federal line item \$250,000 grant that is being administered by the NPS, Northeast Region. It will be used to further plan and implement select concepts outlined in the "Lighting a Spark to Freedom" report.

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS (NHL)**

National Historic Landmarks are sites, buildings and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the United States. NPS offers technical and funding assistance to the owners of these landmarks, monitors the landmarks' conditions and reports biennially to Congress on threatened NHLs. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. Delaware is home to 11 of them. Most are colonial era buildings including homes to four signers of the Constitution, two especially fine examples of Georgian architecture, and the original legislative building for Delaware. They also include stunning reminders that we were always a multicultural land. Among them is the original gunpowder installation of the French Dupont family, a Swedish fort and the oldest Swedish church in the Delaware Valley. Delaware's one National Landmark Historic District, New Castle, was the seat of the New Netherlands government founded by Peter Stuyvesant in 1651.

### **PENCADER HERITAGE CONSULTATIONS (NEW CASTLE COUNTY)**

Pencader Hundred, settled by Welsh farmers and iron workers starting in the late 17th century, lies just south of Newark, Delaware. It encompasses important historic sites linked by greenways and scenic highways, and include economic development and educational programs related to the life and times of the area. Since 1999, a group including State Senator Steve Amick, former State Senator James Neal, University of Delaware professors, Christina school district educators, local historians, and business leaders, under the coordination of the Delaware Academy of Science and Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, has been working to preserve and protect Pencader Hundred and the rich history of the region. NPS has been working with the group, providing information about heritage projects under way throughout the Northeast Region. NPS staff from the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail have assisted with information on developing interpretive material and signs.

### **HISTORIC SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM**

This program allows state, county and local governments to obtain surplus federal properties at no cost if the property is listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Historic properties transferred by General Services Administration (GSA) under this pro-

For more information on National Historic Landmarks, contact Bill Bolger at:

215-597-1649  
Bill\_Bolger@nps.gov

Just for fun, check out the Imaging Our National Heritage Photo Contest Winners at:

[www.nps.gov/phso/nhlphoto](http://www.nps.gov/phso/nhlphoto)



**John Dickenson House—Home to one of the Delawareans to sign our Constitution.**

To learn more about Pencader Hundred, contact Joe DiBello at:

215-597-1581  
Joe\_DiBello@nps.gov

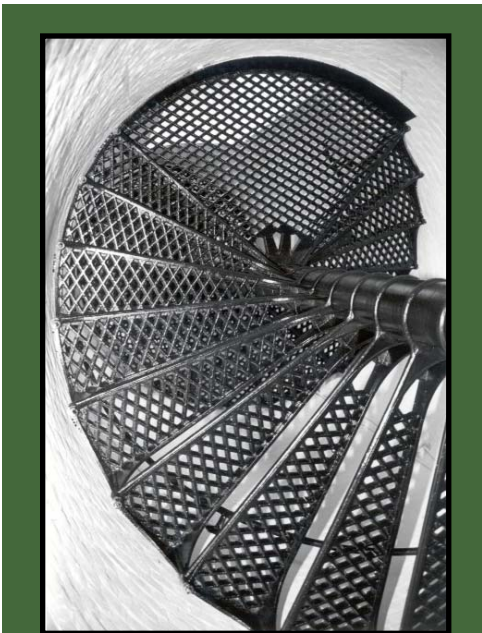
For more information about the Historic Surplus Property Program, visit:  
[www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/hssp\\_p.htm](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/hssp_p.htm)

For National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, visit:

[www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/nhlpa/nhlpa.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/maritime/nhlpa/nhlpa.htm)

Or, for either program, contact Lisa McCann at:

215-597-0651  
Lisa\_McCann@nps.gov



Inside Fenwick Island Lighthouse, which was transferred to the state of Delaware.

For more information about Save America's Treasures, including application information, visit:

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/>

For information about Challenge Cost Share Program and Save America's Treasures, contact Bonnie Halda at:

215-597-5028

Bonnie\_Halda@nps.gov

For more about the American Battlefield Protection program, contact Kathy Schlegel at:

215-597-6486

Kathy\_Schlegel@nps.gov

Or visit the ABPP's website at:

[www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp)

For more on HABS/HAERS/HALS, contact Catherine Turton at:

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gram may be used for public facilities, such as museums and government offices. Properties can also be leased to not-for-profit organizations and to developers who may be eligible to take advantage of federal preservation tax incentives for historic buildings. NPS assists the GSA with the property transfer and plays an important role in ensuring the building is properly rehabilitated and maintained. Successful transfers in Delaware include Buck Tavern and Samuel Davies House (located within Lums Pond State Park), Fenwick Island Lighthouse, and Breakwater Light.

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT**

This new Act allows underutilized historic lighthouses and stations to be put to creative uses. General Services Administration (GSA) transfers these properties at no cost to federal agencies, state and local governments, nonprofit corporations and community development organizations for park and recreation, cultural and historic, and educational uses. NPS reviews all applications, assists the GSA with the property transfer, and plays an important role in ensuring the building is properly rehabilitated and maintained. The first transfers under this Act occurred in June 2002.

### **SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES & CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM**

NPS provides 50-50 matching grants to partner groups through these two programs. Save America's Treasures funds projects that preserve and conserve nationally significant historic artifacts, structures and sites. Challenge Cost Share Program provides funding for preserving natural, recreational and cultural resources. Projects may be inside or outside park boundaries.

The New Castle Courthouse was recently awarded \$200,000 through Save America's Treasures to address the building's deterioration and antiquated mechanical and electrical systems. This 1732 Georgian-style courthouse was an early seat of colonial government. The cupola served as the beginning point of the 12-mile radius that determines Delaware's curved northern boundary.

### **AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM (ABPP)**

This program fosters opportunities for stewardship of historic battlefields through grants and technical assistance that support public and private partners in identifying, evaluating and planning for preservation.

### **HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY/HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD/HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SURVEY (HABS/HAER/HALS)**

HABS/HAER/HALS is an integral component of the federal government's commitment to historic preservation. Through this program, NPS ensures that a uniform and thorough record (including measured drawings, written histories and large-format photographs) is made of all nationally significant resources that are affected by federal undertakings. These records are then stored in the Library of Congress where they contribute to the memory of our national history.





Images from the HABS/HAER collection, left to right: a porch in the Delaware Avenue Historic District (Wilmington); Voershot wheel at Mendenhall Mill (Hockessin vicinity); a privy at Hedgelawn (Middletown vicinity); first floor stairway in the Delaware State House (Dover).

## MONUMENT RESEARCH AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

This program provides comprehensive assistance in the interpretation and care of public sculpture, commemorative monuments, and historic cemeteries for the benefit of National Park units, government agencies, and other constituents. NPS staff designs and implements training courses, conferences, and print and web-based publications. Staff also provides direct project assistance to these various groups, ranging from entities with a single statue to historic burial grounds with hundreds or thousands of memorial monuments to preserve.



Students from the University of Delaware Art Conservation Program get hands-on experience preserving a bronze statue at Gettysburg through NPS's Monument Research and Preservation Program.

Students from the University of Delaware have worked with NPS to preserve three monuments in the past several years at Gettysburg National Military Park, with more projects planned for the future. This collaboration allows students accustomed to working on small objects in a laboratory to treat artworks of a very different scale and setting while also helping the park care for its monuments.

## MORE PARTNERSHIPS IN DELAWARE

These are only highlights of National Park Service activity in Delaware. It is not a complete list of partnership opportunities we offer. Please contact us if you are interested in bringing a National Park Service program into your community, or contact Marie Rust, Director of the Northeast Region to suggest ideas for further partnership initiatives.

For more on Monument Research and Preservation, contact Dennis Montagna at:

215-597-5824

[Dennis\\_Montagna@nps.gov](mailto:Dennis_Montagna@nps.gov)

Within the state government, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) works to preserve valuable resources and interacts with NPS on many projects. Delaware's SHPO is:

Daniel Griffith  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
Hall Of Records  
121 Duke of York Street  
Dover, Delaware 19901  
302-739-5313  
[dgriffith@state.de.us](mailto:dgriffith@state.de.us)

For more information, visit:  
**[www.nps.gov/phso](http://www.nps.gov/phso)**

Or contact:

Joe DiBello  
Northeast Region  
National Park Service  
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